

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 024181

R 111120Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, AU, IS

SUBJECT: COMMENTS OF NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA ON
TRANSIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES

1. NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AVIGDOR DAGAN, IN PRESS INTERVIEW APPEARING IN "KURIER" DEC. 9, EXPRESSED RESTRAINED UNDERSTANDING FOR CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S STATEMENTS IN US DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT THERE THAT AUSTRIA COULD NOT HANDLE ANY SHARP INCREASE IN TRANSIT FLOW OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES, BUT FELT POSSIBLE ADDED BURDEN TO AUSTRIA OF SUCH INCREASED FLOW WOULD BE LARGELY AN ORGANIZATIONAL ONE. DAGAN STATED THAT IN ISRAELI VIEW AUSTRIAN TRANSIT FACILITY COULD ACCOMMODATE DOUBLE CURRENT CAPACITY (30,000) IF PROCESSING SPEEDED UP.

2. IN ANY CASE, ISRAEL APPRECIATES AUSTRIAN EFFORTS TO DATE ACCORDING TO DAGAN AND IS NOW LOOKING INTO OTHER TRANSIT
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POSSIBILITIES. IN LATTER CONNECTION HE NOTED THAT AUSTRIA

AND ROMANIA ARE ACCESSIBLE FROM SOVIET UNION BY RAIL
BUT THAT ROMANIA IN FACE OF ARAB PRESSURES TERMINATED RAIL
TRANSIT OF SOVIET EMIGRES AT TIME OF YOM KIPPUR WAR. IF
PERMISSION FORTHCOMING FROM SOVIET UNION, DIRECT FLIGHTS
FROM SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL VIA DENMARK, SWEDEN, OR
SWITZERLAND, ALTHOUGH MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE FOR ISRAEL,
WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBILITY. DAGAN CONCLUDED INTERVIEW
WITH OBSERVATION THAT "ALL THESE POSSIBILITIES ALREADY
BEING PURSUED BY WAY OF QUIET DIPLOMACY."

3. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS FIRST PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
IN AUSTRIAN PRESS THAT ISRAEL, IN WAKE OF KREISKY'S
POSITION ON MAGNITUDE OF TRANSIT FLOW, IS INVESTIGATING
POSSIBILITY OF ALTERNATIVE TRANSIT ROUTES FOR MOVING
JEWISH EMIGRES OUT OF SOVIET UNION. HUMES

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Message Attributes

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